



Youth Mission Co Summer 2022
From Kingdom to Kindom
Pre-Immersion Session

Objectives:

- Get youth thinking about the concept and characteristics of kingdoms
- Introduce youth to the concept of the Kingdom of God
- Prepare youth for their YMCo Immersion Experience this summer!

Focus Areas:

- Introduction of theme for the week
- Preparation of heart, mind, and body for the experience

Supplies Needed:

- A whiteboard (or chalkboard, newsprint, etc) and something to write on it.
- Bibles, or Mark 4:30-32 written where all can see it

Entering Activity: Simon Says

Say to the group

"We are going to be talking today about our summer mission immersion experience. But first, let's play a quick game of Simon Says." *Have the group stand up, pick a leader, and have them lead the game. After you have played 1 or 2 rounds of Simon Says, have the group sit down.*

Say to the group

"This summer we will be going to (Asheville, Raleigh, Memphis, Charleston) for our mission experience. Today we will spend a little time thinking about that trip and preparing our hearts and minds for what we will encounter that week. The theme we will be exploring is From Kingdom to Kindom."

"I want you to think about the concept of kingdoms. When you hear the word 'kingdom' what comes to mind?" Is there a picture that comes to your head?" *Write down on newsprint what they say. The idea is word association. At this point there doesn't need to be a lot of discussion or cross talk. Just write down what people say.*

"This is a great list! What adjectives come to mind when you think of a kingdom?" *You may need to remind them that an adjective describes a noun.*

"Can anybody think of some kingdoms in our world today?"

Example: The United Kingdom

"Looking at these things we've written down about kingdoms, are there other things besides countries that can have some of the characteristics of a kingdom?" *For instance, a company could be considered kind of like a kingdom in the sense that there is one person or a small group making the rules that others follow.*

"Are kingdoms good or bad or both? What makes them good or bad, or some of both?"

"Our theme for our trip is *From Kingdom to Kindom*. Why do you think they are getting at by removing the 'g'? What is 'kin'?" (kinfolk = family)

Bible Study: The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Say to the group,

One of the things we will be discussing during our week this summer is the idea of the Kingdom of God, and how it's different than other kinds of kingdoms. Let's look at this passage from the Bible to give us a little taste of what is to come. This is a parable Jesus told his disciples.

Have someone read Mark 4:30-32

30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? **31** It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; **32** yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

"When we look at our list here of what kingdoms are all about, what do you notice regarding how Jesus describes the kingdom of God?"

"While we are at (Asheville, Raleigh, Memphis, Charleston) this summer, we will be diving more deeply into these things. We will be thinking about the kind of kingdom, or society, that Jesus was walking around in over 2000 years ago, and also thinking about the kind of world you and I are walking around in today. We will consider what the Kingdom of God is really all about, and what that has to do with how we live our lives right now. So, clearly there is a lot of great stuff ahead of us!"

Talking Logistics

Ask:

"What questions do you have about our trip to (Asheville, Raleigh, Memphis, Charleston)?"
(Please refer to information in your leader packet to respond to their questions. If there are things you don't know or can't find the answers to, make a list and ask your Mission Immersion Director!)

Closing Prayer:

"God, thank you for the gift of your Word. Thank you for the opportunity to go and serve others, and to learn from those we meet along the way. Thank you for this thing that Jesus refers to as "the Kingdom of God" and for the place that you have for us in it. Prepare our hearts and minds for the experiences you have prepared for us, and the ways we will be changed this summer. In the name of Christ, amen."